

**Date:** 12/11/99 4:49 PM  
**Sender:** cbokauai@kokee.hawaiian.net  
**To:** lilikoi@cats.ucsc.edu  
**cc:** KAREN SPRECHER KEATING  
alohamau@lava.net  
kaimi@lava.net  
VID3699@aol.com  
ohea@hawaiian.net  
paukini@hotmail.com  
akalanui@ca.freei.net  
ripmeister@juno.com  
lhuihui@yahoo.com  
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Kem.Loong@templebar.org  
ontai@juno.com  
pauahi@att.net  
Arlene\_Kon/WILCOX/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us

**Priority:** Normal

**Subject:** Testimony from Puanani

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Author: cbokauai@kokee.hawaiian.net at DOI  
Date: 12/11/99 4:49:12 PM  
Priority: Normal  
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Received: from kokee.hawaiian.net ([209.213.37.2]) by  
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(Lotus SMTP MTA v4.6.5 (863.2 5-20-1999)) with SMTP id  
85256845.002C2C7D; Sun,  
12 Dec 1999 03:02:30 -0500  
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Sat, 11 Dec 1999 21:46:55 -1000 (HST)  
(envelope-from cbokauai@kokee.hawaiian.net)  
Message-ID: <3852C6D8.6998@kokee.hawaiian.net>  
Date: Sat, 11 Dec 1999 21:49:12 +0000  
From: Puanani Rogers <cbokauai@kokee.hawaiian.net>  
Organization: Ho'okipa Network  
<<http://www.hawaiian.net/~cbokauai>>  
X-Mailer: Mozilla 2.02 (Macintosh; I; PPC)  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
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kokee.hawaiian.net id  
VAA64678

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TESTIMONY GIVEN ON KAUA'I REGARDING RECONCILIATION  
BETWEEN KANAKA MAOLI AND THE UNITED STATES  
December 5, 1999  
Lihue Veteran's Center, Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii

E welina kakou....Greetings to everyone, seen and unseen, that  
are present here  
in this room  
today. Mahalo ia Ke Akua, na aumakua, na kupuna a me na uhane e  
ho'opuni ana  
makou.

(We thank God, our guardian spirits, our ancestors and all the  
spirits that are  
surrounding us).

I would like to extend my warmest aloha to Mr. Berry and Mr.  
Van Norman, our  
visiting  
dignitaries from Washington D.C. I hope that the messages you  
take back to  
Congress and to  
your President will be an accurate account of the truth and  
acknowledgement of  
the rights of  
our people to seek self-determination and the restoration of  
our own nation.  
That means we  
want self-governance of our sovereign lands restored.

My name is Puanani Rogers, I am a Kanaka Maoli born on this  
island 60 years  
ago. My  
ancestors have been here hundreds of years before me. I know  
who I am and where  
I came  
from....I am deeply rooted to our lands and spiritually linked  
to my ancestors.  
Therefore, you  
cannot separate me from the land....it is my identity.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this historic premiere Kauai event. We pray for Ke Akua's kokua to unite our collective voices as one, and that only the 'highest good' of everyone's positive efforts will be fulfilled today, and that we may let our hearts and spirits be our guides towards that fulfillment. We pray that this dialogue will be a step towards making the corrective changes that are over 100 years past due; changes in the management of our lands and our government affairs, changes in the management of our own education, health, housing, culture and natural resources. When that happens, you will begin to see a happier, healthier, more educated, well-housed, and prosperous people flourishing on the land and natural resources that will sustain us through the next millenium.

Is that not why you are here? To help us achieve those goals? Are you not here to correct your breach of trust? Breach of trust is a major crime, in the eyes of the world, and you cannot continue to ignore it. You have committed a grave crime and today you are looking into the faces of the victims and the evidences of your crime!

Yes, many of us have been arrested, convicted and thrown into jail...why? because you ignored your responsibility to malama 'aina and malama our na po'e (care for our lands and our people).

Your own United States Navy war machines exist here on Kauai, its called the Pacific Missile Range Facility, and when a group of us asked them to stop the launching of their rockets off of our sacred burials, they arrested us, and labeled us criminals. Shame on you, America! We came in peace, yet we were handcuffed and rudely treated. Today, they are still launching their rockets.

Destruction, pollution, over-development, theft of our lands,

and harm to our  
people are  
happening right under your noses and you do nothing. By a  
stroke of a pen via an  
executive  
order your military stole those sacred lands from us. I wish  
that all executive  
orders be  
rescinded and abolished. I also wish a moratorium could be  
issued tomorrow that  
would stop  
all further development on all our islands until a decision  
regarding a  
reconciliation of our  
lands takes place. The word developers has developed into a  
different meaning  
for us...  
destroyers.

Kauai people have not been just sitting back and watching your  
parade go by;  
instead we  
have been educating ourselves, talking to the world through the  
Internet ,  
building strong  
community-based initiatives that helps us to survive, rather  
than wait for  
government help that  
may never come, surviving on our own as best we can as we  
continue to try to  
make some  
sense of all the political garbage that continues to oppress  
us, especially the  
<sup>3</sup> Thou shalt not<sup>2</sup>  
...thou shalt not have access rights to practice customary and  
traditional  
rights, or thou shalt  
not sue the government, you are a ward of the State, or thou  
shalt not vote for  
your own island  
representative for OHA, an agency to your puppet government,  
the State of  
Hawaii. By the  
way, if you think that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs or the  
Dept. of Hawaiian  
Home Lands  
represents us, you are dead wrong. If you think that we are  
agreeable to Senator  
Akaka's trap  
to put an office of Hawaiian Affairs in the Dept. of  
Interior/BIA, you are dead  
wrong again. We  
are not Native Americans, we are not American Indians, we are a  
unique race and  
first  
peoples of these lands.

My voluntary work for the past four years has been facilitating  
a network of  
communications.  
We encourage discussions on land, water, political and

culturally sensitive  
issues throughout  
our islands, for we strongly believe when you are made aware  
and are informed on  
what is  
going on around you, you are more apt to make better decisions.  
Networking has  
been a  
powerful tool for us in the education, empowerment and the  
coming together of  
our  
communities not only on our island but throughout the State.  
It has  
strengthened the bonds  
established from the sharing of all mana`o(thoughts and ideas).  
Included in our  
networking  
regarding these hearings, has been a dialogue with one whom I  
consider a great  
leader in  
our Independent movement, Dr. Kekuni Blaisdell. You will be  
hearing from him  
at your  
meetings on O`ahu. We support his view that these hearings and  
the Rice vs.  
Cayetano case,  
are diversions and traps that attempt to take our focus away  
from the core  
issue, OUR LANDS.  
To us, reconciliation means, to RECONCILE THE LAND TO THE  
PEOPLE. Please take  
that  
message back to congress.

And if you are here to help us figure out how many zeros are  
needed on the  
overdue check for  
reparations....forget it, you can't afford it. The punitive  
damages alone is  
exorbitant! How does  
one measure over 200 years of America's criminal abuse to us  
and our lands? If  
you can't pay  
us the full sum, why not do this. Pay your debts by continuing  
your obligatory  
financial support,  
with no strings attached, and give US the money and let US  
manage our own  
restoration of  
our ourselves and our lands. Continue to do this until we are  
able to stand on  
our own two  
feet. That would be the right thing to do...please take that  
message back to the  
President.

We demand an audience with the US State Department to discuss  
issues regarding  
our  
political status, our historic treaties and the purported  
annexation of our

nation, and while  
we're at it, can we get rid of the disclaimer attached to the  
Apology Bill that  
renders it a void  
document? We hope you will again agree that it is the right  
thing to do.  
Please carry this  
message to your U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and  
her people.

If you do not agree with what has been said, so be it. Then  
there will be no  
further reason for  
me to be here. I would be wasting my precious time and yours.  
If you agree,  
than I will be  
looking forward to your next visit to continue our discussion.

By the way, are any of our Kanaka maoli living off island  
going to have the  
same opportunity  
as we have, to participate in this process? About one-third of  
our people are  
living on the  
continental United States. We demand that they be given a  
chance to speak.  
And for all the na kupuna, our elders, that I have spoken with  
who do not want  
to step forward  
to speak; I speak for them and relay to you that they too,  
want to see that you  
right your  
wrongs, so their minds may be put to rest without any fears for  
their children,  
grandchildren  
and the generations yet to be born.

Mahalo a nui loa. May we always abide in truth, love and peace  
and find the  
justice that  
needs to prevail in this process of reconciliation. Let the  
process begin and  
let it begin today!

Aloha Ke Akua.....Ke Akua pu.

Puanani Rogers and family  
Ho`okipa Network  
P. O. Box 88  
Kapa`a, Kaua`i, HI 96746  
(808) 821-2267  
E-mail: cbokauai@hawaiian.net

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(We thank God, our guardian spirits, our ancestors and all the  
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surrounding us).

I would like to extend my warmest aloha to Mr. Berry and Mr.  
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your President will be an accurate account of the truth and  
acknowledgement of  
the rights of  
our people to seek self-determination and the restoration of  
our own nation.  
That means we  
want self-governance of our sovereign lands restored.

My name is Puanani Rogers, I am a Kanaka Maoli born on this  
island 60 years  
ago. My  
ancestors have been here hundreds of years before me. I know  
who I am and where

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I came  
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to my ancestors.  
Therefore, you  
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We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this historic  
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Is that not why you are here? To help us achieve those goals?  
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Yes, many of us have been arrested, convicted and thrown into  
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Your own United States Navy war machines exist here on Kauai,  
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Shame on you,

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And if you are here to help us figure out how many zeros are needed on the overdue check for reparations....forget it, you can't afford it. The punitive damages alone is exorbitant! How does one measure over 200 years of America's criminal abuse to us and our lands? If you can't pay us the full sum, why not do this. Pay your debts by continuing your obligatory financial support, with no strings attached, and give US the money and let US manage our own restoration of our ourselves and our lands. Continue to do this until we are able to stand on our own two

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We demand an audience with the US State Department to discuss issues regarding our political status, our historic treaties and the purported annexation of our nation, and while we're at it, can we get rid of the disclaimer attached to the Apology Bill that renders it a void document? We hope you will again agree that it is the right thing to do. Please carry this message to your U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and her people.

If you do not agree with what has been said, so be it. Then there will be no further reason for me to be here. I would be wasting my precious time and yours. If you agree, than I will be looking forward to your next visit to continue our discussion.

By the way, are any of our Kanaka maoli living off island going to have the same opportunity as we have, to participate in this process? About one-third of our people are living on the continental United States. We demand that they be given a chance to speak. And for all the na kupuna, our elders, that I have spoken with who do not want to step forward to speak; I speak for them and relay to you that they too, want to see that you right your wrongs, so their minds may be put to rest without any fears for their children, grandchildren and the generations yet to be born.

Mahalo a nui loa. May we always abide in truth, love and peace and find the justice that needs to prevail in this process of reconciliation. Let the process begin and let it begin today!

Aloha Ke Akua.....Ke Akua pu.

Puanani Rogers and family  
Ho`okipa Network  
P. O. Box 88  
Kapa`a, Kaua`i, HI 96746  
(808) 821-2267

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